



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

insurance act; the patent law and rules of practice; the trade mark law; the custom-house tariff and export duties, the full schedules thereof with rulings and applications (a sort of Mexican Vandergrif's hand book); the stamp revenue law and stamp taxes; and weights, measures and currencies.

The work is embellished with a fine portrait of President Diaz, twenty-three maps, and a number of charts. It has an excellent index. It is published, says the preface, "to supply the need for some reliable and up-to-date work of reference," a want felt by offices maintained for some time past by the Government of the Republic in London, New York and other cities. The hope is expressed that the "work will enable the political student of our time to understand approximately the great task to which the enlightened ruler of modern Mexico has devoted himself, and to gauge in some degree the measure of his success," also that "the general reader may find some interest in the summary account of the phenomenal rise of a great nation on the ruins of an ancient civilization in the West." It appears from an examination of the book that both of these hopes may be realized. Instead of detracting in any way from the value of the book the human element introduced among the otherwise dry statistics and descriptive matter by the laudation of Mexico's great president lends a peculiar, if unusual, interest.

CARL C. PLEHN.

University of California.

*Industrial Insurance in the United States.* By CHARLES RICHMOND HENDERSON, Professor of Sociology, University of Chicago. (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1909. Pp. 429. \$2 net.)

This book is a most important handbook and guide to the legislator looking for comprehensive plans of industrial insurance. Not merely does it give a sketch of the progressive legislation of other countries, it covers the entire ground of all that is now being done in the United States by different agencies. This knowledge is of the greatest importance for any scheme of constructive legislation, since such a scheme must build upon what already exists, and a compulsory scheme imposed by the state must correlate

with voluntary schemes initiated by individuals. It is this general survey of the American field accompanied by sober criticism from the standpoint of advanced European standards that makes the book the starting point of what is destined to be the next great advance step in American social legislation. The book brings together a mass of material, properly classified, and revealing long and patient inquiry. It is of course condensed and abstracted, but for the present purpose this is the useful form of presentation. To show the author's attitude towards the various existing methods I will quote his words:

Of local relief societies he says (p. 83): "The state might well accept this genuine product of elementary patriotism, these little groups of brave pioneers, adapt their societies into a great and powerful system covering the land, and at the same time retain all the advantages of self-government in small societies in which men gain their best preparation for participation in the larger affairs of political action."

Of trade union benefits he says (p. 111): "In the future development of industrial insurance we must reckon with the trade-unions as among the most important agencies for promoting the movement, especially as legal compulsion seems to be remote. The stronger unions have long since learned that an insurance fund is the first, most sure, and most permanent foundation for the popularity of the union. Only in extraordinary, uncertain, and unforeseen circumstances is a strike fund needed, while, on the contrary, provision of benefits in cases of sickness, accident, and death is a permanent and certain need of members. If compulsory insurance were introduced, the legislatures of the states would find it desirable and necessary to bring these powerful organizations into the system by recognizing, regulating, and controlling their bylaws, and administration. The state governments could well afford to follow this course, because the unions have shown that they can administer insurance funds at low cost and in an efficient and satisfactory way. Up to this time the trade-unions are the only organizations which have shown ability, even in moderate measure, to provide unemployment insurance."

Of fraternal societies he says (p. 121): "The necessity of further legislation in order to prevent the entire ruin of the fraternal movement has of late been recognized quite generally by the enlightened men in the societies and by their advisers."

Of industrial life insurance companies (p. 162): "In the same way it can be shown that this form of organization cannot conduct accident insurance, without radical changes of method; and indeed, it would be grossly unjust, as we have elsewhere shown, to lay this burden on the poorly paid employees. We must conclude, therefore, that these companies are restricted to a very limited field of industrial insurance, that they render a necessary service at enormous and burdensome cost, and that this cost is so heavy as to hinder both savings and insurance of a desirable kind."

Of manufacturing firms and corporations (p. 210): "The illustrations given in this chapter show that the business world in the United States is not in sight of a consistent social policy in relation to industrial insurance, that employers are filled with vague dissatisfaction and are making what they call 'practical' experiments, the most costly and unsatisfactory of all. Gradually the influence of actuaries is making itself felt with advantage, but they have only traditional standards to guide them."

Of the relief plans of railway companies (p. 243): "At a time when the narrow legal provisions of the employers' liability law were generally regarded as substantially equitable, when it was supposed that each employee individually assumed the ordinary risks of a hazardous occupation in the act of accepting employment and was expected to provide for himself out of wages and savings, it was an almost revolutionary step for an employing corporation to admit that this ethical and legal rule was not satisfactory, and to make at least partial provision for indemnities by associated action with the workmen and by making considerable contributions to the funds. But as the community comes to discover and accept the principle of 'professional risk,' that a business which does not make good, as far as indemnity in money can do it, the losses of human energy as well as of broken and worn out machinery, is parasitic and socially bankrupt, the schemes of the railroad companies will no longer satisfy the reason and conscience of men."

There is an analytical table of contents, a useful bibliography, but no index.

JOHN R. COMMONS.

University of Wisconsin.